THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Drinking water being a State subject the Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing funds by way of 100% grants-in-aid. However, as per the action plan prepared by the State Government of Karnataka all habitations in the State are to be provided with drinking water facilities during the Ninth Plan period subject to availability of funds.

Employment opportunities in Rural Areas

2400. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-availability of the employment opportunities in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the policy formulation by Government to create more employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the rural areas and to check their migration to cities;

(c) the percentage of the educated unemployed rural youth to whom employment has been provided, so far, under the said policy; and

(d) the present population of the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approach paper to Ninth Five Year Plan has recognised the generation of greater productive employment as one of the primary objectives and it is sought to be achieved in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. The Ministry for Rural Areas & Employment is implementing the following programmes to create self-employment and wage-employmet opportunities for rural poor including educated unemployed youth:—

1. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)

2. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

3. Million Wells Scheme (MWS)

4. Training of Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

5. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)

6. Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

Under EAS, an assurance is provided to give 100 days of employment during lean agricultural season to all able-bodied adults in manual work in rural areas who are in need and desirous of work but cannot find it in other Government programmes.

(c) The coverage of educated unemployed rural youth under different programmes of this Ministry is not being monitored separately.

(d) The total rural population as on 1st March, 1997 as per the report of the Expert Group on Population is estimated to be 688.33 million.

Development of Backward Tribal Districts of Bihar

2401. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated plans for the development of certain backward tribal districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the total expenditure proposed for each programmes; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented?